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ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 271645Z OCT 06  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4417  
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1264  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1101  
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY 0606  
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1017

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 002065

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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STATE FOR WHA/EX AND WHA/CAR  
S/CRS  
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR  
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)  
WHA/EX PLEASE PASS USOAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: STUDENT PROTEST CALLS FOR THE DEPARTURE OF MINUSTAH

¶1. This message is sensitive but unclassified -- protect accordingly.

¶2. (U) Approximately 75 students from the State University of Haiti School of Human Sciences protested the occupation of MINUSTAH8 on October 24, the day commemorating the 61st anniversary of the United Nations. The student group began their protest at the University and marched to the site of the United Nations ceremony, the Haitian National Museum (MUPANAH) just across from the National Palace. (Note: MUPANAH is considered a symbol of nationalistic pride for many Haitians. End Note.) On their return to campus, students clashed with the Haitian National Police Intervention and Order Maintenance Corps (CIMO), throwing rocks and setting tires afire, prompting CIMO to fire tear gas at the demonstrators. Demonstrators pummeled UNPOL vehicles driving in the area with rocks, resulting in damage to three vehicles. Radio Kiskeya and Metropole report that students burned an American flag in the vicinity of MUPANAH and chanted that United Nations was a "lackey of imperial nations," including the United States, and chanted in support of Hugo Chavez. The students continued their protest on October 25 by blocking the entrance to their campus with burning tires.

¶3. (U) During the student demonstration on October 24, Lavalas partisans and former government employees also protested against the GoH, demanding reinstatement of fired government workers. Having started what they claim will be a daily protest on Monday, October 23, 20-30 Aristide supporters gathered at MUPANAH in the morning. (Note: On October 23, roughly 100 partisans marched in front of government institutions including the presidential palace and parliament, seeking reintegration into public utility companies.) While their main concern is returning to government employment, they supported the students, call for the departure of MINUSTAH.

¶4. (U) The demonstration did not disturb the UN ceremony, attended by Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis and the SRS Edmond Mulet. Econcouns, who also attended the event, stated that there were no more than 80 protesters and that MINUSTAH had created a tight security perimeter around the ceremony. The group had bullhorns and was audible to the audience but none of the speakers acknowledged its presence

or addressed its demands. According to Econcouns, they were an irritant but at no time physically threatening.

15. (SBU) Comment. We see no signs that either the anti-MINUSTAH or the anti-U.S./pro-Chavez sentiments expressed by the students are widespread among the populace. While MINUSTAH has been the target of popular resentment at various times since its mission began in July, 2004 because of perceived failures to establish security, no organized movement opposed to MINUSTAH has ever developed. As is usual in Haiti, rumors regarding "who is really behind the students" run rampant, comprising a list ranging from the Prime Minister, to pro-Aristide chimeres, to former rebel Guy Phillipe. It simply appears, however, that ever-present "anti-globalization" student activists have settled on MINUSTAH as a convenient target of their anger. However small their numbers, any sign of disorder accompanying public protest is cause for concern in Haiti and bears close monitoring. End Comment.

TIGHE